



Hiram "Tinker" Rogers

July 22, 1957 - April 8, 2025

Hiram "Tinker" Rogers was born on July 22, 1957. He was so excited to get here that he was born in the doctor's office. His parents, Hiram Rogers and Lillie Merritt Rogers of Center Hill, should have known then that their lives would never be the same.

As a small child, he would "tinker" with things, take things apart and put them back together (or not), so much so that his grandmother, Jessie Merritt, coined his nickname that still follows him today. Some did not know that he even had a "real name."

When Tinker's parents married, his father already had grown children. So, when Tinker was born, he was already an uncle. His half- brother Jack, half-sisters Ivey, Francis, Stella, and Miram Lee have already passed on, but so many nieces and nephews remain, and the stories they could tell.

His parents had one other child together, his little sister. When she was born, they told him that his mother could not come home until she named the baby. Tinker, wanting his mother home, said to name her "Annie Lou." Being seven years apart in age caused many issues growing up and at times could fight like cats and dogs. But when their mom was ready to pass on, she made them promise to stop fighting. Since that day, they never had a fight or argument again and went from brother/sister to friends. His sister recently told him that it

was the best gift that Mom ever gave.

He attended Center Hill Elementary and graduated from South Sumter High in 1976. Over the years he worked in sales, welding, electrical, and remodeling, but his true talent was repairing cars, trucks, mowers, tractors, and pretty much anything with a motor or wheels.

At 6'6" he came across as a tough guy that one shouldn't mess with, which was true, but he also had a softer side when it came to family and friends. He was always willing to help those in need, sometimes without having to be asked; a true friend. He also took wonderful care of his mother until she passed away. He was her favorite and he did not hesitate telling everyone.

Tinker grew up with a big bunch of cousins and nieces and nephews. A tight knit group where peanut boils, fish fries, and huge family dinners were normal. Some have passed on, but some are still included on his best friend list.

Tinker met Mary Anne Brown some 34 years ago. Mildred Brown, Mary Anne's Mom, thought the world of Tinker and spent many hours talking on the phone to each other. It has not been proven, but that may have been how he convinced Mary Anne to marry him. He already had a big family, but after they married in 1996, his family grew even larger, being welcomed into the family by Mary Anne's siblings, Jeannie, Linda, Debbie, Rick, David, Danny, as well as all the many nieces, and nephews, as he was Uncle Tinker to them as well.

Together, he and Mary Anne raised several four-legged babies, including Little Bit, Tippy, and Brandy, that have gone on before. Gypsy and Miss Kitty are mourning the loss of their beloved daddy.

While Tinker did not have children of his own, he loved them, and they loved him. He had a way to connect with them. Some would say it was because he

was a big kid himself, or it may have been because they could feel that his love was genuine. He even has a few children that adopted him as their grandpa.

Tinker's niece, Jenna, completely adored her uncle. He was her cheerleader and bodyguard. When he found out she was getting married, he laid the law down to her future husband, Ryan. Wade felt he had the best brother-in-law ever and he always knew he could count on him.

He loved to talk and tell stories. He would get to know everybody that he encountered and usually would have them laughing. He always kept us on our toes because no one knew what he would come up with next or what he would say.

Tinker enjoyed hunting at "The Camp" near Ocala. He enjoyed the people and the comradery more than the actual hunting. He also enjoyed watching Nascar, YouTube, fishing and finding treasures at estate sales or car shows.

He was lucky to have so many good friends. If you were around him for any length of time, his phone would ring a dozen times and he would have to stop and talk. The outpouring of love and support during this time is a testament to those relationships and the bond they shared.

Tinker departed this earth officially on April 8, 2025, in Orlando, Florida. To say he will be missed is an understatement.

Services will be held on Saturday, April 12th at the Purcell Chapel of Beyers Funeral Home, 114 W. Noble Ave in Bushnell, FL 33513. Visitation will begin at 1:00 pm and the service will begin at 2:00 pm. He will be laid to rest among family at the Merritt Cemetery.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home of Leesburg, Florida.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 12. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Beyers Funeral Home & Crematory - Purcell Chapel
114 W Noble Ave
Bushnell, FL 33513
(352) 793-4531

Service

APR 12. 2:00 PM (ET)

Beyers Funeral Home & Crematory - Purcell Chapel
114 W Noble Ave
Bushnell, FL 33513
(352) 793-4531

Interment

APR 12. 3:00 PM (ET)

Merritt Cemetery
Honeycut Rd
Groveland, FL 34736

Tribute Wall

VL

“ *Vcki Lake lit a candle in memory of Hiram "Tinker" Rogers*



Vcki Lake - April 15, 2025 at 08:05 PM

ST

“ *Tinker you were a great guy with a heart of gold! You will be so missed. Rest in Peace my friend.*

Sherry Thornton - April 12, 2025 at 10:11 PM

LG

“ *It's Been a minute since i've seen Tinker, But he always had a smile and a hug for me. Thank you For being my friend.*



Linda Gerard - April 12, 2025 at 07:04 PM



“ *Tinker will surely be missed. Sorry to hear of his passing. The Woods won't be the same. Rest Easy My Friend*

Sarah Tess Horton - April 12, 2025 at 06:14 PM

CH

“ Rest easy my friend and I'll see you on the other side 😞



carol hensley - April 12, 2025 at 05:44 PM



“ Tinker has been a great friend. He will surely be missed. Tomahawk and Maggie. RIP

Maggie Saxton Cooper - April 12, 2025 at 03:04 PM

AG

“ Tinker you will always be truly missed and loved in the woods we had countless days out there running dogs and hunting I can remember sitting on the corner of 88 in the woods during a field trial listening at the dogs run and the next thing I know your trying to chase down a deer on foot with a BB gun when you got back and got your breath you say never failed Tinker will knock them down lol lol lol one thing for sure you always had a way of keeping everybody around you laughing there was never a dull moment when you was around Tinker we will forever miss your smiling face my friend give heaven a lil hell my friend xoxoxoxo



Amy “Reedy” Gibson - April 12, 2025 at 09:45 AM

KE

“ Kathryn Gentry & Darrell Elliott lit a candle in memory of Hiram "Tinker" Rogers



Kathryn Gentry & Darrell Elliott - April 11, 2025 at 06:44 PM

KE

I have known Tinker all his life, he was a great man. He was always there to help . He will truly be missed. God bless his family & give them peace & comfort during this difficult time. 🙏🕊️

Kathryn Gentry & Darrell Elliott - April 11, 2025 at 06:46 PM

VL

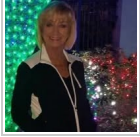
I met Tinker in 2008 when I bought the cabin next to his in the forest. From the very beginning, he made me feel welcome. His kindness and quiet generosity stood out—whenever I wasn't at the cabin, he kept an eye on it for me, always looking out for his neighbors. When my daughter and grandson later moved in, Tinker was just as kind to them. He always had a warm word and made sure they felt safe and cared for. I'm grateful to have known such a genuinely good person. He will be missed. Vicki, Traci & Nicholas

Vicki Lake - April 15, 2025 at 07:59 PM

EO

“ My prayers is for the spirit to fill the vacancy in your hearts Tinker surely will be missed

Eddie Odom - April 11, 2025 at 02:07 PM



“ Tinker, you will definitely be missed by all that knew you! My favorite memory is of my wedding day when you joined in with my grandmother on the "horrible" dinner music just to get her going. She went on about it for quite some time! If you see her remind her. She can talk your ear off again! Rest in peace my friend!



Dawn Gleason - April 11, 2025 at 01:31 PM

KR

“ Tinker was one of a kind. I have so many good memories of him. He was my ride to school , I would purposely miss the school bus because I knew Tinker was coming, to give me a ride to school. Rides home from school would involve stopping somewhere along the way to get a snack after school. This is when I learned just how much integrity Tinker had , as one of my friends talked him into giving her a ride as well , she came out of the store bragging about the stuff that she had just picked up in that store .that was the end of her ever having a ride with us again . never again he said , no thief in my cars.

Kay Rogers - April 11, 2025 at 12:19 PM